

RICH AND POOR OWE THOUSANDS IN TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

Collector Donnelly Proposes Plan to Aid Tax Payers of Small Means.

Standard Oil Company, Conn. R. & L. Company, and Housatonic Railroad in List Furnished to Claims Committee—Poverty and Clerical Error Lawful Reasons for Abating Interest and Expense.

Tax Collector Donnelly's plan to clean up the arrearage on the assessment books of the city before it becomes the duty of the City Attorney to take legal procedure against several hundred delinquent owners of property, was discussed by the aldermanic claims committee, last night. Collector Donnelly appeared before the committee and explained that he had no interest in the proposition, except he thought if all of the people who owe arrearage were given an opportunity to pay up without interest, or expense, providing payments were made before March 1, 1909, there would be a great deal of trouble saved the committee on claims and the people who have liens upon their property would be put upon an equal footing.

While there are hundreds of people who have been unable to pay assessments for paving, sewers and grading, there are a few big corporations, such as the Standard Oil Co., the Housatonic R. & L. Co., and the Connecticut R. & L. Co., who appear upon the tax books as never having paid their share of the cost of certain improvements. While the collector has no desire to save the rich from paying the interest and expenses of their assessments he made it plain that he was ready to help others who would gladly pay the original amount if they could, and who would have to plead poverty if the city took the liens into court for collection.

The committee decided that they would like to confer with Mayor Lee upon the matter.

The Mayor said this morning that there were only two causes allowed by law for the abatement of taxes—poverty and clerical error. He would not discuss the matter further.

The new city charter orders the Tax Collector to present each year to the City Attorney a list of all unpaid assessments secured by lien which are as follows:

Name	Amount	Date
Eliza Ryan, James St. layout,	\$15.00	1871
David Wakeman, Fairfield Ave. layout,	630.00	1871
Estate Emory Brothwell, Iranistan Ave. layout,	150.00	1872
Ellen Mahoney, North Ave. layout,	20.00	1872
John Wells, Commercial St. layout,	104.00	1873
Otis F. Porter, Commercial St. layout,	256.00	1873
Henry E. Gould, Prospect St. sewer,	22.50	1874
Frederick C. Grabber, Seaview Ave. sewer,	10.00	1876
Mrs. James Allen, Walter St. sewer,	21.40	1876
Cornack McPadden, Lewis St. layout,	13.00	1876
John Mulloy, Iranistan Ave. sewer,	79.80	1876
S. Jones, Iranistan Ave. sewer,	120.00	1876
Matthew Callahan, Harral Ave. sewer,	16.85	1876
Estate Willis Porter, Hamilton St. sewer,	4.63	1881
Estate Harriet A. Downs, Main St. pavement,	44.04	1882
Some of the largest amounts owed for assessments of later date are as follows:		
Housatonic R. R. Co., Water St. pavement,	\$1,067.31	1887
Albert Wakeman, Fairfield Ave. walks,	100.10	1889
Frank Miller, Kossuth and Seymour St. sewer,	75.16	1891
Jas. W. Beardsley, Seaview Ave. walks,	107.47	1892
Frederick C. Grabber, Seaview Ave. sewer,	125.00	1892
St. Augustine's Church, Pequonnock St. sewer,	116.82	1892
Estate Ferris Bishop, Trumbull Road layout,	150.00	1893
Bradley Nichols, Trumbull Road layout,	200.00	1893
Frank Armstrong, Trumbull Road layout,	150.00	1893
J. T. Patterson, Burr Road sewer,	120.00	1893
H. & N. J. Sanford, Catherine St. extension,	163.63	1894
Wheeler Beers estate, Catherine St. extension,	196.70	1894
Chas. M. Calhoun, Thorne St. layout,	85.00	1895
Thomas Hoffman, Lexington Ave. sewer,	107.98	1896
Michael McPadden, Jr., Jane St. sewer,	138.51	1896
A. & W. D. Bishop, Main St. pavement,	272.10	1899
Alice M. Bowen, Wilnot Ave. sewer,	106.46	1900
Jas. Spargo, Stratford and Wilnot Ave. sewer,	103.35	1900
Charles Meyer, East Main St. pavement,	154.41	1901
Lewis F. Curtis, Norman and Olive St. trunk sewer,	125.00	1901
C. B. & E. H. Marsh, Center St. sewer,	199.21	1901
Citizens' Association, Cannon St. pavement,	297.85	1902
Standard Oil Co., Admiral St. sewer,	125.00	1902
C. B. Seelye, et al., Fairfield Ave. & Burr Road sewer,	317.18	1902
Pequonnock City Yacht Club, Stratford Ave. widening,	138.00	1902
Fannie McMahon, et al., Stratford Ave. widening,	19.48	1902
Phil. Kusterer, et ux., Stratford Ave. widening,	177.33	1903
Wladyslaw Skymanski, Hallett St. sewer,	145.72	1904
S. S. Mallett, Center St. sewer,	203.70	1904
Conn. R. & L. Co., Fairfield Ave. widening,	333.75	1906

There are 300 or 400 small taxpayers who owe amounts varying from \$2 to \$100 where the interest is charged at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum and where the amount is growing rapidly. Many struggling to meet interest on mortgages and taxes simply had to submit to having liens placed on their property. If all were allowed to come in and pay the amount of the assessment without interest or expense they would be spared from appearing before the Board of Aldermen and pleading poverty.

NEED OF STATE REFORMATORY IS PRESSING

Place Where Youths too Old to Send to Meriden can be Taught How to Become Good Citizens.

The presence of two young men in the city court this morning again called attention to need of a reformatory institution where youths beyond the age at which they are received at the Meriden school for boys could be placed. There is no possibility of ever maintaining such an institution in the city alone and state action is necessary. It is possible that a bill to establish such a reformatory will be introduced at the present session of the legislature. The case which again drew attention to the need was that of James Webster and William Quogan who were arrested in the East End yards for jumping a freight. They had come from their homes in Taunton, Mass., on freight trains. They told a straight story and were evidently looking for work as they said. They were about 17 years of age, too old to send to the reform school and not guilty of any offense which called for a jail sentence. Prosecutor DeLaney said this morning: "What to do with this class of youths is a serious problem. It would not be wise to send them to jail and make manufacturers of them for the simple offense of stealing a ride on a freight. We cannot send them to the Meriden school. If they

"COUNT" HAMON GOT AWAY WITH NEARLY \$700,000

Former Clairvoyant Made a Success of Banking, from His Point of View.

Police of Every Important
City Are Looking for Man
from Paris — Real Name
Said to Be John Warner
—New Victims Turning
Up Every Hour.

(Special from United Press.)
Paris, Jan. 7.—New victims of "Count" Louis Hamon are coming to light every hour to-day in the police investigation of this versatile man, who is now believed to have got away with at least \$700,000. Hamon is believed to have fled to London. The police of every important European city are looking for him but he appears to have vanished as completely as the money of his victims among whom are many women of high rank in England and France.

Hamon came to Paris six years ago after having been driven out of London. It is said by reason of his "clairvoyant" practices. He was then known as "Cheiro, the palmist," and as a palmist he had operated in London and America. His real name, the police say is John Warner. After coming to Paris, the "Count" gave up his palmistry and engaged in the banking business on money that his women dupes had given him. Hamon not only has a clever way of talking and this with his remarkable cleverness at clairvoyance and palm reading brought him a large clientele. His downfall was brought about by an investigation started by Mrs. Julia P. Newell and her sister, Miss Josephine Pomeroy, of New York. Hamon's women dupes turned over to him stocks worth \$500,000 on the advice of an American priest whom the police are confident was an accomplice of Hamon. Hamon was represented to them as a banker. He is believed to have disposed of the stock and to have fled with the receipts.

When pressed for an accounting, he said an employee of the bank had stolen the stocks. He advised them not to report the matter as it would hinder the work of apprehending the thief. The women became alarmed and had the "Count" arrested on a charge of embezzlement, and he appeared before a court. Here he told such a plausible story that he made the court's decision to return for further investigation.

Hamon took advantage of his temporary liberty to quit town. Officers to-day continued their search of his private apartments and his offices at the bank and discovered evidence that indicates that he had many dupes in foreign countries.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—The meteoric career of John Warner, better known as "Count" Louis Hamon who was a fugitive from justice in France, began in Chicago. He fled to this city after his arrest and before long had a constant stream of women pouring into his dimly lighted rooms all anxious to have their palms read. He was often the host at afternoon receptions and club meetings. He claimed to be Hindu or Egyptian as the mood seized him but as a matter of fact he is an Irishman. He also claimed to have acquired the gift of seeing into the future through being hypnotized in India by the Brahmin priests and buried for several days in a tiger skin. When he survived this terrible torture, he said the Brahmins made him a miracle worker.

INCREASED SALARY FOR PRESIDENT

Senate Finance Committee Reports Favorably a Bill Fixing Compensation at \$100,000 a Year.

(Special from United Press.)
Washington, Jan. 7.—The Senate Committee on Finance to-day made a favorable report on the bill to make the salary of the President of the United States \$100,000 a year and those of the Vice-President and Speaker of the House, \$50,000 a year.

The present law gives the President \$25,000 for traveling expenses is repealed and if the salary of \$100,000 is granted by Congress it will include all expenses of the President. It is the only Democrat of the Committee who really opposed the proposed increase for the President. Senator Money of Mississippi and other Democrats objected to the proposed increase of the salaries of the Vice-President and Speaker from \$12,000 to \$20,000 but in the end the committee adopted the measure without a vote.

If President-elect Taft and Vice-President-elect Sherman are to benefit by the change it will have to take effect before March 1, because of the constitutional provision which prohibits a President from receiving an increase in salary during his term of office.

\$546 SENT TODAY TO QUAKE ZONE

Bullen's Hotel Adds to Local Relief Fund —Local Fund Passes \$1,000 Mark.

The Bridgeport Trust Co., treasurer of the local Italian Relief fund to-day sent a check for \$560 to the Italian Red Cross society. This is the second remittance from this city through the source the first check having been one of \$427. The trust company has received in collections \$992.70 up to date. It is sincerely to be hoped that Bridgeport will rank well up in this humane movement with other American cities of its size and wealth as a great deal more money will be required than any one can estimate at this time to bring succor to the hosts of mortals who have been reduced to the direst straits of poverty by the awful cataclysm which has befallen the cities of Messina and Calabria. The good people of our own city should do what they can to help this movement.

The former is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the following which it has to-day turned over to the treasurer of the local fund.

Bullen's hotel, proprietor and general manager,

Anti-Compulsory Vaccination league,

George A. Kaul,

Karl Cyrus,

Major Thomas Boudren,

Through the Italian Congregational church by Rev. Camillo Ceretta:	
Cartwright Shoe Co.,	\$ 5.00
Nicola Grasse,	1.00
E. J. Taylor,	1.00
F. W. Marsh,	1.00
H. Knapp,	1.00
Friend,	1.00
Smith, Murray & Co.,	10.00
Meigs & Co.,	10.00
Cash,	20.00
Isaac Moss, of Moss & Krieger,	5.00
John A. Levery & Bro.,	5.00
G. F. Musante,	1.00
L. N. S.,	1.00
Mrs. Geo. Somers,	1.00
Kieban & Gelman,	5.00
Rpt. National Bank,	25.00
L. D. Plumb,	1.50
Cash,	20.00
Through the Bridgeport Evening "Post":	
C. B. & Co.,	\$15.00
A. N. & Co.,	10.00
Friend,	1.00

IN THE CITY COURT

Orgen Kelly was arrested by Patrolman Cody on a warrant sworn out by his wife charging him with non-support. Mrs. Kelly was not in court this morning to give her testimony and the case was continued till to-morrow.

AMERICAN SHIP STARTS ON ITS RELIEF MISSION

Carries Large Store of Supplies for Earthquake Sufferers.

Execution of Looters at Messina—Number of Dead in Afflicted District Now Estimated by Government at 152,000—American Relief Fund Over Half a Million.

(Special from United Press.)
Rome, Jan. 7.—Ambassador Griscorn started for Messina to-day. He took with him \$50,000 of his own funds. The Ambassador hopes to have all arrangements made for the distribution of supplies sent by American agencies and a field hospital established by the time the four American battleships arrive. Naval attaché Burnadon will be put in charge of the actual work.

The \$50,000 which Mr. Griscorn has advanced will be repaid to him out of the American contributions as was the \$50,000 which he advanced to put out the fire at Messina. The ultimate cost of the American relief mission will be close to \$1,000,000. Supplies for the ship alone have cost \$75,000 and the cost of maintaining the vessel for the two weeks for which it is chartered will be more than \$1,000 a day. The Bayern sailed from Civita Vecchia at noon to-day, flying the Italian Red Cross flag.

In order to checkmate greedy land owners who are seeking to take advantage of the present confusion in the quake zone to claim land in all directions, a committee will be appointed to establish proper boundary lines. The task is a hard one. Many of the records are destroyed and in hundreds of cases there will be no means of establishing the exact boundaries.

Messina, Jan. 7.—The legal execution of looters began here to-day, several being sentenced to death by the military tribunals. The military tribunals have been left to the mercy of the looting and the robbing of defenseless victims were not induced by starvation, death sentences are passed upon the offenders. More than 100 mountain villagers from the unaffected mountain districts were arrested in the city for obtaining supplies under the pretense of starvation. They are viewed in the same light as looters and shot down whenever caught.

Rome, Jan. 7.—Ten days have elapsed since the quake and it is still impossible to give more than a rough approximation of the death toll which now placed at 152,000 by governmental officials. Future deaths from earthquake causes will increase the toll by several thousands. Roughly speaking, the death list at Messina is placed at 100,000, at Reggio 25,000, Palmi 50,000, Villa San Giovanni 3,000, Palermo 3,000, Scilla 2,500, and Mileto 2,000. The death toll in 48 other towns ranges from 800 down to 100. It is believed to total about 12,000. Priests are going among the ruins in the stricken towns and giving absolution in articulo mortis to persons who may yet be alive underneath the debris.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Special Chinese Ambassador Tang Shao Yi to-day sent a personal contribution of \$500 to the American Red Cross for the Italian earthquake relief fund. In an accompanying note the Ambassador said: "As the American Red Cross is doing such efficient and human work for the relief and comfort of the unfortunate earthquake sufferers in Italy permit me the pleasure of sending you a check for \$500 as a contribution from this Embassy."

The total receipts so far are \$525,000. Ambassador Griscorn informed the State Department in dispatches received to-day that the Red Cross Relief ship Bayern had sailed, laden with \$58,000 worth of stores and medical supplies. He has expended \$78,000 for this expedition.

FATHER ACCUSES PRETTY DAUGHTER IN CITY COURT

Louis Fussiano of 21 Columbus Place made complaint at Headquarters two weeks ago that his daughter Margaret was incorrigible and would not remain at his home. Miss King, the probation officer looked into the matter and to-day she reported that there were two sides to the story. The girl was arrested last night by Patrolman Poland in front of the City Hall. She was charged with running a gambling place in the city court this morning the girl said she was 17 years old. She had left home because her stepmother made it unpleasant for her and would not cook her meals. She was earning her living and was better off away from home. The girl is pretty and not a stranger.

Her father had heard reports that the girl had been put out of several boarding houses on account of the late hours she kept and that she was of the seen on the streets long after midnight. He had been offering to produce evidence that she had conducted herself properly. She said that her father had "ruined" her sister's life and she wanted to escape a like fate. The girl was released in custody of Miss King and the case continued. Fussiano is a barber and bears a good reputation. The daughter looked strangely out of place as prisoner in a police court.

BRUSH DENIES RUMOR

New York, Jan. 7.—"I guess we own most of the St. Louis club as far as having a few St. Louis players with us this year to help us win the pennant but I don't own any shares of stock in that club, have never been able to purchase any and have never given the matter a thought."

In these words President John T. Brush of the Giants, denied the story emanating from Chicago that he had purchased stock of the St. Louis Nationals and now held a majority of the shares.

WITH PEN, PAPER AND LEGISLATIVE HELP RAILWAY COMPANY CREATED \$20,000,000 IN A FEW MINUTES

Report of Woodruff Commission Shows How Enormous Burden Was Laid on Shoulders of Public.

Proposed Legislation Lodges Power to Grant Franchises and Power to Regulate Rates of Public Service Corporations in a Public Service Commission—Publicity for Financial Transactions of Gas, Water and Lighting Companies Required.

(Special from United Press.)
New Haven, Jan. 7.—The final report of the Commission appointed by ex-Governor Woodruff to investigate the subject of a public service corporation act became public to-day. It differs materially from the preliminary report issued several months ago. After careful consideration the commission has reached six important conclusions as follows:

To grant franchises to public service corporations.

To supervise the condemnation of land and construction of fixtures by these corporations insofar as the same affects the public interest.

To supervise the capitalization of these corporations.

To ascertain the facts relating to the financial condition of these corporations; the physical condition of their plants and equipments and the causes of accident resulting from their operation.

To supervise their operation in so far as the same substantially affects the public welfare.

To fix the rates chargeable, when existing rates are changed.

The commissioners are careful to say that it is their opinion that the duties of a public utilities commission should be purely supervisory and not managerial. The management of the ordinary affairs of these corporations should be left to the management of themselves. "In the opinion of the commission," stated the report, "it would be better for the General Assembly to vest power in a permanent commission of eminent men to supervise the system of exercising indirectly by means of special charters."

The power to supervise the condemnation of land and the construction of fixtures by these corporations should be vested in such a commission, says the report and the specific property to be taken under the extraordinary powers of eminent domain ought to be determined in accordance with the interests of all parties affected thereby, and not alone by the corporation seeking to acquire the property. "The interest of a corporation to render its construction safe, the fact is that it has not always been the case and there has been much construction in the state which is unsafe."

Under the section regarding capitalization it says: "It is well known that many of the public service corporations in this state have been grossly over-capitalized. The Connecticut Rail-

way & Lighting Company is one among the numerous examples." This corporation was organized in 1900 by the consolidation of several companies enumerated and had capital stock, \$4,102,000; bonds, \$3,882,000; floating debt, \$238,132.25. Making the total capital stock, bonds and floating debt aggregate \$8,220,932.25. "Predicated upon this consolidation the Connecticut Railway & Lighting Company issued bonds to the extent of \$3,350,000, an amount exceeding by more than \$1,000,000 the total capital stock, outstanding bonds and floating indebtedness of the consolidated companies and in addition thereto it issued capital stock to the amount of \$15,000,000, making a total capitalization of \$24,550,000. The corporation formerly owned \$2,210,932.25 (bonds and debts included)," it says.

Other instances of alleged over capitalization are cited.

OYSTERMEN DON'T LIKE MESSAGE OF WOODRUFF

(Special from United Press.)
New Haven, Jan. 7.—What from all indications will be one of the liveliest fights in this session of the Legislature is brewing today over the special message of former Governor Woodruff advocating a higher tax on oyster beds.

Oyster dealers all along the Connecticut shore are wrought up over the message and though none would be quoted for publication here today all were free in expressing their disapproval of the proposed measure.

The oyster dealers say they have been losing money this year and that any increase in the tax would work a great hardship on them. One prominent dealer said that it is extremely likely that the dealers will get together for some organized move against the proposed appointment of a committee to investigate the advisability of a higher tax. "This has come upon us so suddenly," he said, "that we have not had time to give it any attention, but it is evident it would do us great injury."

THE BRIDGEPORT NEWSDEALERS' PROTESTIVE ASSOCIATION

will hold its regular meeting Friday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 sharp, Lincoln building, Cannon St.

FOR SALE—Grocery store and butcher market, 148 Pembroke St. Stock, fixtures and fixtures of old established stand. Enquire on premises. Daniel P. Keane. A 7 s * p

NOTICE—There will be a meeting of Court Wardens, No. 13, F. of A., this evening at 8 o'clock. Installation of officers and other special business. Per order, J. J. McCarthy, Chief Ranger. A *

WINDOW GLASS—We will sell you any size glass you need, set it for you, too, at reasonable prices. Beckhoff & Bennett, 697 East Main St. G 6 tfo 2 4 6

FOR SALE—High grade upright piano, cheap. Square piano, 50 cts. a week. 12 Piano Boxes, good for ash box or chicken coops. 844 Noble Ave. S 24 tf 2 4 6

POLO AND HOCKEY SUPPLIES—lowest in the city. Large line to select from at The Liberty, 1029 Broad St. Open evenings. T 30 * tf o

CARD READER—Advice on all affairs, 25c. Mrs. Levy, 674 Madison Ave. 4th house above North Ave. G 6 * tf.

A. FRANK, Optician and Loan office, has removed to 1214 Main St. 12 tf

NOW IS THE TIME to cover your pipes, boilers and furnaces and save the cost in coal in one winter. Open evenings until 8 o'clock. Tel. 2367. John F. Walsh, 114 Kosuth St. T 5 * 2 4 6

DR. WALTERS, DENTIST, 1062 Main St. Office hours from 8 a. m. to 9 p. m. Sundays 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. P 23 * o

NOTICE

Meeting of the Bridgeport Gaelic Athletic Club at their rooms to-night. All members requester to attend. Geo. H. Wood, Pres

TO RENT—Newly furnished lodge hall several evenings. Inquire at 100 Seith, 75 State street, or Matt Wieler, 1288 Main street. 1 4 tfo